(d) if not, by when it will be done on large scale?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A new device has been evolved wherein small incisions are made to harvest the grafts used for coronary artery bypass grafting. It is a blood saving and less painful procedure and more convenient to the patients.

(c) and (d) At present the above procedure is being used in a few hospitals in Delhi and Mumbai.

AIDS among youths

†2581. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that danger of AIDS among youths in the country, particularly students, is rising;

(b) if so, whether Government have any scheme to start AIDS Education Programme in all the public schools and semi-Government schools in the States to make them aware of the increasing dangers of AIDS;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has already started the School AIDS Education Programme. This Programme addresses students of classes IX & XI and focuses on raising awareness levels, helping young people resist peer pressure and developing a safe and responsible life-style. The programme reinforces family values and respect for the opposite sex. The activities include training of teachers and peer educators among students , role play, debate and discussions, question box and access to referral services, if necessary.

It is aimed to cover all the schools in the country by the end of 2004

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in a phased manner, giving priority to six high prevalence States. Private and tribal schools are also being included in the plan.

In addition, the University Talk AIDS Project began in October, 1991 and is a collaborative partnership between The National Service Scheme (NSS), Deptt. of Youth Affairs & Sports and National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO). The project involves creating awareness among students and the youth on issues related to HIV/AIDS through workshops, seminars and written materials especially designed for them.

(d) Question does not arise.

Council for checking registrations by private hospitals

†2582. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting-up a Council for keeping a check on the arbitrary methods being adopted by hospitals, nursing homes and clinics for doing their registration and monitoring the health facilities being provided by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the council is likekly to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India; regulation of private and public hospitals as well as nursing homes comes within the purview of State Governments. Howerver, Central Government is considering putting in place standards and specifications that will prescribe minimum standards for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments which the State Governments should adhere to. In the draft of the proposed legislation in this regard, there is a provision for establishment of Central Council for laying down norms for assessment, accreditation, inspection, certification, regulation and maintenance of records. There is also a provision for establishment of Assessment and Accreditation Council at States level. However, the proposal is at a preliminary stage and it is not possible to indicate the time-frame that will be required to reach finality.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.